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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Motorized Artillery Regiment
at Kiskunhalas

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1. The Motorized Artillery Regiment at Kiskunhalas is the new barracks built in 1950, south of the town, on the road to Szeged.
2. Regimental OB: Regimental staff, 15 officers, 20 NCOs, 60 men; Staff battery, scouting platoon, 30 men, telephone platoon, 35 men, radio platoon, 25 men; Quartermaster group; 1st Section, 1st Battery, 2nd Battery. In this section reservists are trained for two or three months, also men without any previous military training. 2nd Section, 3rd Battery, 4th Battery; 3rd Section, 5th Battery, 6th Battery. Men belonging to the active classes serve in the 2nd and 3rd sections. Attached to the section staffs are a ranging officer and one who plans shoots. Total strength of the regiment is about 1,100 men.
3. The 1st Section has four 57 mm AT guns and four 76.2 mm AT guns; the 2nd Section has eight 57 mm AT guns, the 3rd Section has eight 76.2 mm AT guns. The auto park consists of 11 Skoda, 21s and Csepel passenger cars, five jeeps, 30 weapon prime movers, two 3-ton Csepel trucks, two 1/2-ton trucks, and two 1.5-ton trucks. Each battery has five motorcycles.
4. The commander is a major about 40 years old, a convinced Communist, but not a bad fellow. Commander of the 1st Section: First Lt. Lajos Koteles, about 30 years old, over 180 cm tall, a convinced Communist who is not liked. The 2nd Section commander is First Lt. Sandor Torai, 25 years old, a fine man. Political officer of the 2nd Section: Lt. Sandor Kovacs, 25 years old, a convinced Communist. The quartermaster is First Lt. Kalman Lorant, 30 years old, an amiable chap.

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5. Of the men, 25 percent belong to the class of 1929, 40 percent to the class of 1930 and 40 percent to the class of 1931. Eighty percent of the men come from west Hungary, 20 percent from Budapest and neighborhood. The reservists trained during the summer belonged to the classes 1922 to 1926.
6. Discipline is good and very strict. Relations between men and NCOs are better than between men and officers. In general it can be said that the officers are much more reliable Communists than those under them, having been submitted to a severe purging process. The men take the propaganda very passively. The food is good and adequate. The uniforms are of good material and in plenty of quantity.

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